

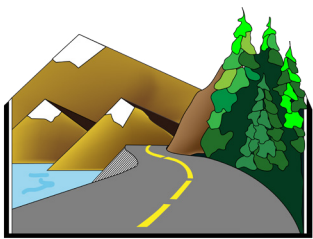


Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



A draft concept image of the Juneau Creek, Steel Plate Girder Bridge.

The purpose of this monthly report is to provide a snapshot update of the project. For more detailed project information, please visit www.sterlinghighway.net.



STERLING
HIGHWAY MILE POST 45 TO 60
ALASKA

Project Overview

The Sterling Highway Milepost (MP) 45 to 60 Project will reconstruct the east and west ends of the existing roadway from approximately MP 45 to 46.5 and MP 56 to 58. This construction will widen shoulders, straighten the road, and add passing lanes. Between MP 46.5 and 55.5 (the off-alignment section), the project will construct 10 miles of new roadway north of Cooper Landing and the Kenai River, including a new bridge spanning Juneau Creek Canyon.

This project will bring the highway up to current standards by efficiently and safely serving through traffic, the local community, and traffic bound for recreation destinations both now and in the future. Construction began in 2021 and the goal is to open the new highway to traffic by the end of 2027.

Tasks Performed in March



Public Involvement: The project team coordinated and implemented outreach on completed and upcoming project activities. The team also prepared for the upcoming public meeting on April 20, 2023.



Environmental: Archaeologists continued to work on required post-field reporting and on planning for 2023. DOT&PF held the annual Programmatic Agreement (PA) signatory meeting on March 30, 2023. PA signatories continued to work on the amended PA and review of project deliverables. The environmental team began to plan for the 2023 field season.



Phase 1B: The Phase 1B team continued their coordination with utility owners to better assess and address potential utility impacts, constructability, and construction phasing challenges. This coordination will continue further into 2023.



Phase 2: The Steel Plate Girder bridge design progressed to 85%.



Phases 3-4: Construction began the week of March 13, 2023.



Phase 5: The land swap was completed. The Phase 5 team started clearing and mobilizing for geotechnical investigations. The clearing work will help provide better access for archaeologists, hydrologists, engineers, drill rigs, and surveyors.



Phase 6: The Phases 3–6 team continued coordination with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the development of the Juneau Falls Trailhead and Juneau Falls Overlook. Design also progressed.



Agencies: Regular coordination with Agencies was conducted.

Near-term Schedule Goals





Agencies: DOT&PF will work with Agencies to finalize amendments to the PA; Temporary Water Use authorizations within Phase 3; a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Wildlife, Vegetation, and Maintenance; and a 404 Permit Modification request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Phase 6 agency site visits will take place during summer 2023.




Near-term Schedule Goals


continued...

 **1A** **Phase 1A:** Phase 1A construction will resume in April 2023, and traffic updates will be available online at <https://511.alaska.gov> or by calling 511. Phase 1A is expected to be completed by August 2023.

 **MPs 57 and 58:** This scope of work will be added to the Phase 3 & 4 grading and drainage project. This erosion repair work is anticipated to occur in spring 2024.

 **2** **Phase 2:** The Steel Plate Girder bridge will be at 95% design in May 2023. DOT&PF will award the construction contract in August 2023.

 **3-5** **Phases 3-5:** Preliminary clearing efforts will be completed and field activities for geotechnical efforts will begin in spring 2023. All other field activities will start in early to mid-summer. The design team will further the Phase 5 tight diamond interchange design after the geotechnical investigation results are available. The Phase 5 design will be finalized by 2024.

 **6** **Phase 6:** The team will continue coordination and design efforts with USFS on the development of the Juneau Falls Trailhead and Juneau Falls Overlook. Design team site visits will take place during summer 2023.

Contact

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Recent Tasks Completed



November 2022

Phase 1B: The design team submitted the 99% plan set assembly.



December 2022

Public Involvement: The team provided project updates at the December 7, 2022, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission Meeting and the December 21, 2022, Anchorage Snowmobile Club Meeting.



January 2023

Public Involvement: The project team attended and hosted a booth at the January 12, 2023, Anchorage Transportation Fair to share project information with meeting attendees.



February 2023

Agencies: A 6-month PA extension was granted on February 28, 2023.



March 2023

Phase 6: A review meeting was held for the Juneau Falls Trailhead and Overlook 30% design level.



March 2023

Phase 5: The land exchange between Cook Inlet Region, Inc., and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge was completed.



April 2023

The Initial Financial Plan, reclassified as a Federal Highway Administration Major Project, was submitted for acceptance.